

Message Text

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TAGS: ETRD CH

SUBJECT: HONG KONG TA KUNG PAO ON PRC FOREIGN TRADE

REFS: PEKING 1794

1. HONG KONG'S ENGLISH-LANGUAGE TA KUNG POA WEEKLY SUPPLEMENT CARRIED BOTH THE NCNA ACCOUNT OF THE PEOPLE'S DAILY OCTOBER 15 ARTICLE ON FOREIGN TRADE AND A COMMENTARY IN ITS COLUMN, "THE PAST WEEK", WHICH IS OFTEN USED TO PURVEY THE CURRENT LINE ON SIGNIFICANT TOPICS. THE TEXT OF THE COMMENTARY IS REPRODUCED BELOW AS AN INDICATION THE INTERPRETATION PEKING WISHES TO GIVE TO THE PD ARTICLE.

2. "CHINA'S FOREIGN TRADE POLICIES

"OVER A WEEK AGO, IT WAS REPORTED IN WESTERN MEDIA THAT THE PEOPLE'S DAILY IN PEKING PUBLISHED AN EDITORIAL ON THE OPENING OF THE KWANGCHOW FAIR.

"AS IT TURNED OUT, WHAT THE MEDIA REFERRED TO WAS

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NOT AN EDITORIAL, BUT A SIGNED ARTICLE PUBLISHED ON PAGE

6 OF THE PEOPLE'S DAILY ON OCTOBER 15, THE DAY, IT IS TRUE, WHEN THE KWANGCHOW FAIR OPENED.

"THIS IS NOT TO SAY THAT THIS ARTICLE IS THEREFORE NOT IMPORTANT. BESIDES REVEALING THAT THE VOLUME OF CHINA'S IMPORTS AND EXPORTS IN 1973 WAS 5.66 TIMES WHAT IT WAS IN 1952 (THUS PUTTING THE VALUE AROUND US\$18,000 MILLION (SIC) AND 2.59 TIMES THAT OF 1965, THE ARTICLE ALSO RE-ITERATES SOME OF THE MORE SALIENT POINTS IN CHINA'S TRADE POLICIES.

"LATELY, SINCE CHINA HAS BEEN ON THE WORLD MARKETS FOR COMPLETE SETS OF FACTORY STATEMENT, THERE HAS BEEN SPECULATION IN THE OUTSIDE WORLD THAT SHE IS ABANDONING HER PRINCIPLE OF SELF-RELIANCE.

"OBVIOUSLY A REFUTATION OF THIS, THE ARTICLE STRESSES: 'WE HOLD THAT POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE CANNOT BE SEPARATED FROM ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE. TO OBTAIN ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE, IT IS ESSENTIAL TO FOLLOW THE POLICY OF 'MAINTAINING INDEPENDENCE AND KEEPING THE INITIATIVE IN ONE'S OWN HAND AND OF RELYING ON ONE'S OWN EFFORTS' AND FIRMLY MAINTAINING SOVEREIGNTY IN FOREIGN TRADE.'

"HOWEVER, THE ARTICLE POINTS OUT, 'THIS POLICY IN NO WAY MEANS CLOSING THE DOOR TO OR ABANDONING FOREIGN TRADE. CHINA ALWAYS MAINTAINS THAT ACTIVELY EXPANDING FOREIGN TRADE AND ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL EXCHANGES ON THE BASIS OF EQUALITY, MUTUAL BENEFIT AND SUPPLYING EACH OTHER'S NEEDS IS NOT ONLY NECESSARY BUT HELPFUL TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF EACH OTHER'S NATIONAL ECONOMY.'

"WHILE EMPHASIZING THAT 'CHINA EXPANDS PRODUCTION MAINLY TO MEET THE DAILY GROWING HOME CONSUMPTION AND NEEDS,' THE ARTICLE POINTS OUT THAT SHE IS ALSO 'ACTIVELY DEVELOPING TRADE AND ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL EXCHANGE WITH OTHER COUNTRIES.'

"COMING TO THE POINT THAT CHINA HAS BEEN IMPORTING CERTAIN NEW TECHNIQUES AND INDUSTRIAL EQUIPMENT, THE ARTICLE SAYS THAT THIS IS 'IN LINE WITH THE PRINCIPLE OF 'MAKING FOREIGN THINGS SERVE CHINA.' THIS SERVES PRECISELY TO REINFORCE THE COUNTRY'S POTENTIALS OF SELF-RELIANCE AND ACCELERATE HER SOCIALIST CONSTRUCTION.'

EMPHATICALLY, HOWEVER, THE ARTICLE DECLARES; 'CHINA AS A SOCIALIST COUNTRY WILL NEVER FOLLOW THE EXAMPLE OF UNCLASSIFIED

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THAT SUPERPOWER WEARING THE SIGNBOARD OF 'SOCIALISM' IN TRYING TO EXPLOIT DOMESTIC OR FOREIGN NATURAL RESOURCES IN CONJUNCTION WITH FOREIGN POWERS, LET ALONE GOING IN FOR JOINT ENTERPRISES WITH THEM.'

"ON CHINA'S TRADE WITH THE THIRD WORLD, THE ARTICLE SAYS THAT HER ECONOMIC AND TRADE EXCHANGE WITH THESE COUNTRIES 'IS NOT MERELY AN EXCHANGE OF COMMODITIES BUT AN IMPORTANT MEANS OF SUPPORT AND HELP FOR EACH OTHER IN

THE STRUGGLE AGAINST IMPERIALISM AND HEGEMONISM."
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